

**Notes of 8/10/09 Meeting
Marshfield Energy and Climate Change Committee**

Attending: Anne Miller, Rich Phillips, Lawrence Black, John Morris, Bob Atchinson, & Ed Hutchinson, & Saul Gresser

Convene: 6:35 PM

Business:

1) CEDF Municipal Technical Assistance Program Grant Update

Rich submitted the grant application. Still need support letters for the town of Plainfield and the Twinfield School Board. Twinfield board has been invited to reimburse the town of Marshfield for the 10% match needed (or to at least participate in the match). As of today, no formal response has been received. Anne Margolis from CEDF says that the application looks promising, but we are unlikely to receive a decision this month. Michael Horowitz, the project manager named in the grant, will need a contract with the school, assuming that the grant is funded. Rich has already had preliminary conversations with Bob Light, Marshfield zoning administrator, regarding permit requirements. A zoning permit will need to be applied for. After receipt of this permit the Certificate of Public Good will need to be obtained from the Public Service Board. Questions arose over how long a process this might be. Bob suggested that we start as early as possible, because this permit could take several months to obtain.

Conversation moved to the eventuality of completion of the planning and the beginning of the actual project. It is likely that additional project funds would be solicited through a subsequent grant request of CEDF. Further funds would be applied for through other federal stimulus monies. The local share for the final project could run as much as 60K. The question is, where do we get these funds. John floated the idea of creating town issued bonds against the anticipated energy savings. This and other potential options will need to be explored further and soon. The schedule outlined in the application calls for two months to complete the planning stages and to have the specs ready for bid. And a concurrent three-month period to come up with the local share. The school board should be encouraged to host a public meeting during the planning process to get the word out about the project and local funds needed.

2) Summer And Fall Energy Seminar Series: Solar Hot Water Workshop

Lawrence has secured commitments from the following REV full partner vendors and suppliers re: an August 29nd solar hot water workshop:

Elemental Energy; Jim Grundy

The Solar Store, Groton; Brad

Radiant Tech, Lyndonville

Renew Energy Systems, Royalton

Michael Horowitz, Solar Solutions, will also be setting up as a vendor, and Ed Butler, Sunrise Solar, is another possible vendor. All installers have been invited to the presentation and will be given a few minutes each at the end as a forum of sorts. Formal “thank you” for their attendance to be included. Bob Atchinson, Andy Perchlek, and Ed Hutchinson will add their homeowner’s perspective to the presentation. Also Laurence will contact Gary Goulette, Always Plumbing and Heating, Plainfield, to invite him to

Speak about the system at his home. Bob will bring and set up the portable demo rig created for the Montpelier July 4th parade.

The event will take place at the Marshfield Old Schoolhouse Common from 1-4:30; presentation will be from 1-2:15 in the gym with vendors set up in the corridors. Vendors are invited to arrive by noon. Rich will open the doors around 11:30.

Advertising: East Montpelier has been invited to attend and help publicize the event. The draft poster created by Deb Stoleroff was reviewed. Changes made will be e-mailed back to Deb by John. John will then send final draft around so that we can begin posting. Anne reminded all to print many on 1/2-size sheets to save paper and help conserve space on often-overfilled community bulletin boards. Laurence requested eight posters so that he can post Cabot and Marshfield towns. Bob and Ed will post in Plainfield. Rich will send poster to Dave Grundy, E. Montpelier Energy Committee, and to the vendors. There was also a suggestion to post poster in the window of our cars. Deb will get PSA information to the local calendars and radio stations; Rich will check with her to assure this gets done. Rich will get a press release out and e-mail those folks we now have on our e-mail list (about 80 people). A suggestion was made to send out a notice via e-mail to the VECAN list and other energy committees.

Other logistics: Rich will look into the possibility of some club from town or the school sponsoring food and drinks. Possibly the booster club or the French club. Regardless, all agreed that some snacks ought to be on hand, even if this just means buying cider and baking some brownies or cookies.

Rich will also update the survey form borrowed from the Upper Valley/Norwich Energy committee, tailoring it to our event. He will assure that a formal note is included that gives credit to SERG and the Upper Valley committee for use of their form.

3) Other Business:

a) other workshops: additional conversations need to be had about the weatherization and grid connected PV system workshops envisioned for the fall. These will be added to the agenda for discussion at next month's meeting.

b) VCEM, Button Up, and weatherization programs moving forward: Bob, Rich, and Dave Grundy attended a meeting with Paul Markowitz and others regarding the next steps and follow-up from the Efficiency Vermont Community Energy Mobilization program and Community Action Button Up Program. VCEM reported 770 homes visited and 3.67 megawatts in electricity saved; however only 3 or 4 homeowners have followed through with home audits. While EV is interested in repeating the program, they are concerned about how to increase the energy gains. They are currently on hold with further follow-up. This begs the question: What can be done on our end? Some discussion ensued about increased income guidelines for the state weatherization program. It is now available for families at or below 80% of median income. Should we purchase our own blower door to make available to homeowners? [\$3500 to purchase: possible grant from whom? New England Grassroots Env. Fund?] Should we purchase this in concert with other towns? How to provide more help before winter and increase the availability of home audits? Committee members were asked to brainstorm ideas over the next month and come prepared to further discuss this issue.

The Button Up program is set to begin again in September or October with the addition of a "how to" DVD. Bob, Rich and Dave Grundy suggested that CVCAC

have this DVD available for sale to homeowners. Also, CVCAC is reconfiguring their homeowner assisted program to focus on having a staff member available as a “guru” of sorts to train homeowners to complete the weatherization renovations themselves with the CVCAC staff coming by to check the work.

c) Town ANR Weatherization Grant Update: Will Fitzpatrick is set to start sealing OSC building next week. Volunteers will be needed by the end of October to help with insulation. More conversation needed here. Added to next month’s agenda.

Next meeting: September 14th, 6:30, OSC.

Agenda Items:

- 1) Weatherization: what next?**
- 2) Grid-Tied PV Workshop: what next?**
- 3) Volunteer Needs for Weatherization of OSC building.**

Meeting adjourned approximately 8:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Saul Gresser